

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 28, 2007

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2007–08 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 17

Introduced by Assembly Member Horton
(Coauthor: Senator Ducheny)

January 30, 2007

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 17—Relative to the Mary Augustine Bridge.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 17, as amended, Horton. Mary Augustine Bridge.

This measure would ~~designate~~ *encourage San Diego County to post appropriate markers on county property designating* the horse bridge that crosses State Highway Route 125 and is located in Bonita, west of the Summit Park Campground in San Diego County, as the Mary Augustine Bridge. ~~The measure would also request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.~~

Fiscal committee: ~~yes~~ *no*.

- 1 WHEREAS, Mary Augustine is a long-time resident of Bonita,
- 2 California, and an equestrian and trail advocate; and
- 3 WHEREAS, In 1969, Mary was a founding member of a new
- 4 horse club in Bonita called Equestrian Trails, Inc. (E.T.I.), a
- 5 national club with a southwestern base in Los Angeles whose
- 6 purpose was to build a network of trails throughout the country;
- 7 and

1 WHEREAS, The Bonita Club, E.T.I. Corral 89, concentrated
2 its efforts in Bonita and worked in concert with other corrals
3 throughout San Diego County; and

4 WHEREAS, From the early days of E.T.I. Corral 89, through
5 the subsequent reorganization and creation of Bonita Valley
6 Horsemen (BVH) in February 1975, through approximately 1989,
7 Mary worked tirelessly on various trails projects in Bonita and
8 San Diego County; and

9 WHEREAS, Under the guidance of Jim Miller, an attorney who
10 worked pro bono for Bonita Valley Horsemen, Mary's talent for
11 working with local and state politicians and agencies blossomed;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Mary was instrumental in getting the first large
14 trail project in Bonita started and completed. It is the current trail
15 around the Chula Vista Golf Course used by, among others, riders,
16 bikers, and hikers; and

17 WHEREAS, During the critical years of the 1970s and 80s,
18 Mary became a force to be reckoned with. She worked with state
19 and local agencies and persuaded developers to give land easements
20 for dedicated trails, or to preserve existing trails, through Bonita
21 Downs, Bonita Woods Park, Bonita Ridge, and Ranchito
22 Robinwood; and

23 WHEREAS, These trails were to eventually feed into other trails
24 planned for Sweetwater Regional Park. At that point there were
25 an estimated 1,300 horses in Bonita, and San Diego County had
26 the largest per capita population of horses in the U.S.A.; and

27 WHEREAS, As time went on developers began to see the
28 wisdom of calling Mary for advice regarding trails through their
29 developments or rerouting existing trails. Bonita was a horse
30 community; and

31 WHEREAS, As interest and success in local and county trails
32 grew, horse camps at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park had come into
33 being and the Anza-Borrego horse camp was on the horizon. Mary
34 was one of the first volunteers on the Mounted Assistance Unit,
35 designed to aid park rangers on search and rescue missions, patrol
36 the areas of the park that the rangers could not get to easily, uphold
37 park rules, interpret the park regulations, and many other duties;
38 and

39 WHEREAS, One of the first countywide efforts to create trails
40 that networked was started by the San Diego County

1 Comprehensive Planning Organization. The plan included tri-use
2 trails for horseback riding, hiking, and biking. Its purpose was to
3 find solutions for the legal, insurance, and economic problems
4 regarding trails. Mary was the trail coordinator for the local E.T.I.
5 Corral 89. Mary and Shirley Wise, president of local E.T.I. Corral
6 89, and Jim Miller had meetings with local agencies and interested
7 groups regarding the trails plan. Mary was also on the executive
8 board for the Sweetwater Valley Civic Association. The riding
9 and hiking trails plan was approved by the county supervisors in
10 1976; and

11 WHEREAS, In the late 1970s, Mary headed up the new
12 Sweetwater Summit Park east towards Jamul and the trail was
13 built with the aid of a Comprehensive Employment and Training
14 Act grant in the amount of \$40,000; and

15 WHEREAS, This trail was dedicated July 17, 1980, and on that
16 day Mary led the first trail ride on the new trail, which is still used
17 today regularly by riders, bikers, and hikers; and

18 WHEREAS, A long-time member and vice president of San
19 Diego County Trails Council and Bonita Valley Horsemen, Mary
20 continued to lead the fight for trails with the help of Jim Miller,
21 BVH members, and past president Shirley Wise into the late 1980s;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, Mary and her husband Ken moved to the dream
24 home they built in 1990 on the north side of Cuyamaca Lake,
25 overlooking the lake, where they still reside; and

26 WHEREAS, It was not smooth sailing, or riding, for the trails
27 system we now enjoy in Bonita and San Diego County. It took the
28 tremendous efforts, time, dollars, and energy of Mary Augustine
29 and her supporters to achieve these wonderful results; and

30 WHEREAS, Bonita Valley Horsemen are very thankful for
31 Mary's years of dedication, hard work, and experience; and

32 WHEREAS, Mary's ultimate goal, which she fulfilled, was to
33 ride from the Pacific Ocean to Cuyamaca State Park and beyond
34 to the desert regions of Cleveland National Park; now, therefore,
35 be it

36 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
37 *thereof concurring, That the Legislature hereby recognizes the*
38 *contributions of Mary Augustine to the people of California and*
39 *designates encourages San Diego County to post appropriate*
40 *markers on county property designating the horse bridge that*

1 crosses State Highway Route 125 and is located in Bonita, west
2 of the Summit Park Campground in San Diego County, as the
3 Mary Augustine Bridge; and be it further

4 ~~*Resolved, That the Department of Transportation is requested*~~
5 ~~*to determine the cost of appropriate signs consistent with the*~~
6 ~~*signing requirements for the state highway system, showing this*~~
7 ~~*special designation, and upon receiving donations from nonstate*~~
8 ~~*sources sufficient to cover that cost, to erect those signs; and be it*~~
9 ~~*further*~~

10 *Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies*
11 *of this resolution to the Department of Transportation and to the*
12 *author for appropriate distribution.*